

Message Text

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42

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 111230Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 0132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, KU

SUBJ: SENATOR PERCY: PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE DEPARTING KUWAIT

BEFORE ENPLANING AT KUWAIT AIRPORT JANUARY 11 SENATOR PERCY MET WITH LOCAL PRESS, INCLUDING UPI AND AP STRINGERS. IN ADDITION TO PREPARED STATEMENT (SEPTTEL), HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. DURING KUWAIT VISIT HE MET WITH AMIR, CROWN PRINCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER, EACH FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES. HE DISCUSSED WITH THEM "HOW TO FIND WAYS TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST" AND "COOPERATIVE ACTIONS TO FURTHER COMMON OBJECTIVES." HE MENTIONED THAT ALL KUWAITIS HE HAD MET "EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT KUWAIT WANTS PEACE AND FEEL U.S. CAN PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN AVERTING OUTBREAK OF ANOTHER MIDEAST WAR." SENATOR STATED THAT FIFTH MIDEAST WAR IS "UNTHINKABLE TO HIM."

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BUSINESSWEEK INTERVIEW HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD ON POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE. SECRETARY WAS DEALING WITH "HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION AND QUESTION", WHICH WAS BLOWN UP OUT OF PROPORTION BY MEDIA WHEN THERE HAS BEEN "NO CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY" OR IN "TIRELESS EFFORTS OF KISSINGER TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT." PERCY HOPES THERE CAN BE "NO MISINTERPRETATION THAT U.S. AIM IS PEACE OF MIDDLE EAST AND WORLD."

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3. U.S. ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN CONCLUDED BECAUSE

"ADEQUATE DEFENSE IS DETERENT TO WAR. WEAKNESS LEADS TO STUMBLING INTO WARS. HISTORY OF U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS SHOWS THAT BETTER CONDITIONS FOR PEACE COME WITH FEELING OF SECURITY AND STABILITY ON BOTH SIDES." HOWEVER ARMS FACTOR SHOULD NOT OBSCURE CONCENTRATING ON BASIC POINT WHICH IS DIPLOMACY.

4. ALL OF SENATOR'S EFFORTS IN ARAB WORLD HAVE BEEN TO SUPPORT "POLICY OF COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION" AND DO ALL POSSIBLE TO PREVENT WAR.

5. U.S. MUST CONSERVE ENERGY, REDUCE WASTE AND DEVELOP ALTERNATE SOURCES AND MUST ADJUST TO FACT THAT "DAYS OF CHEAP OIL ARE OVER."

6. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD BE HONORED TO MEET WITH CROWN PRINCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN THEY NEXT COME TO THE U.S.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750012-0084
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750159/aaaacads.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR PERCY: PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE DEPARTING KUWAIT BEFORE ENPLANING AT KUWAIT AIRPORT JANUARY 11
SENATOR PERCY MET
TAGS: OREP, KU, (PERCY, CHARLES H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006